



Public Affairs Communications

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November 1, 2019

TO: West Hartford Town Planning and Zoning Commission

FROM: Chuck Coursey

RE: Preliminary Community & Neighborhood Outreach Report
Proposed Outdoor Classroom at Westmoor Park
119 Flagg Road, West Hartford

Attached and below, please find a preliminary Community & Neighborhood Outreach Report for the proposed Outdoor Classroom at Westmoor Park 119 Flagg Road, West Hartford.

Outreach is a daily activity and will continue until all Town public hearings and meetings have been closed. Updated outreach reports will be provided prior to each public hearing.

My outreach is being conducted with residents closest to the proposed structure on the north side of Pioneer Drive, directly abutting Westmoor Park.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Westmoor Park Outdoor Classroom & Shelter Proposal

Proposal:

A three-season, outdoor teaching space to be used as a classroom and shelter that will enhance Westmoor Park's Summer Camp and school-based EcoVenture program.

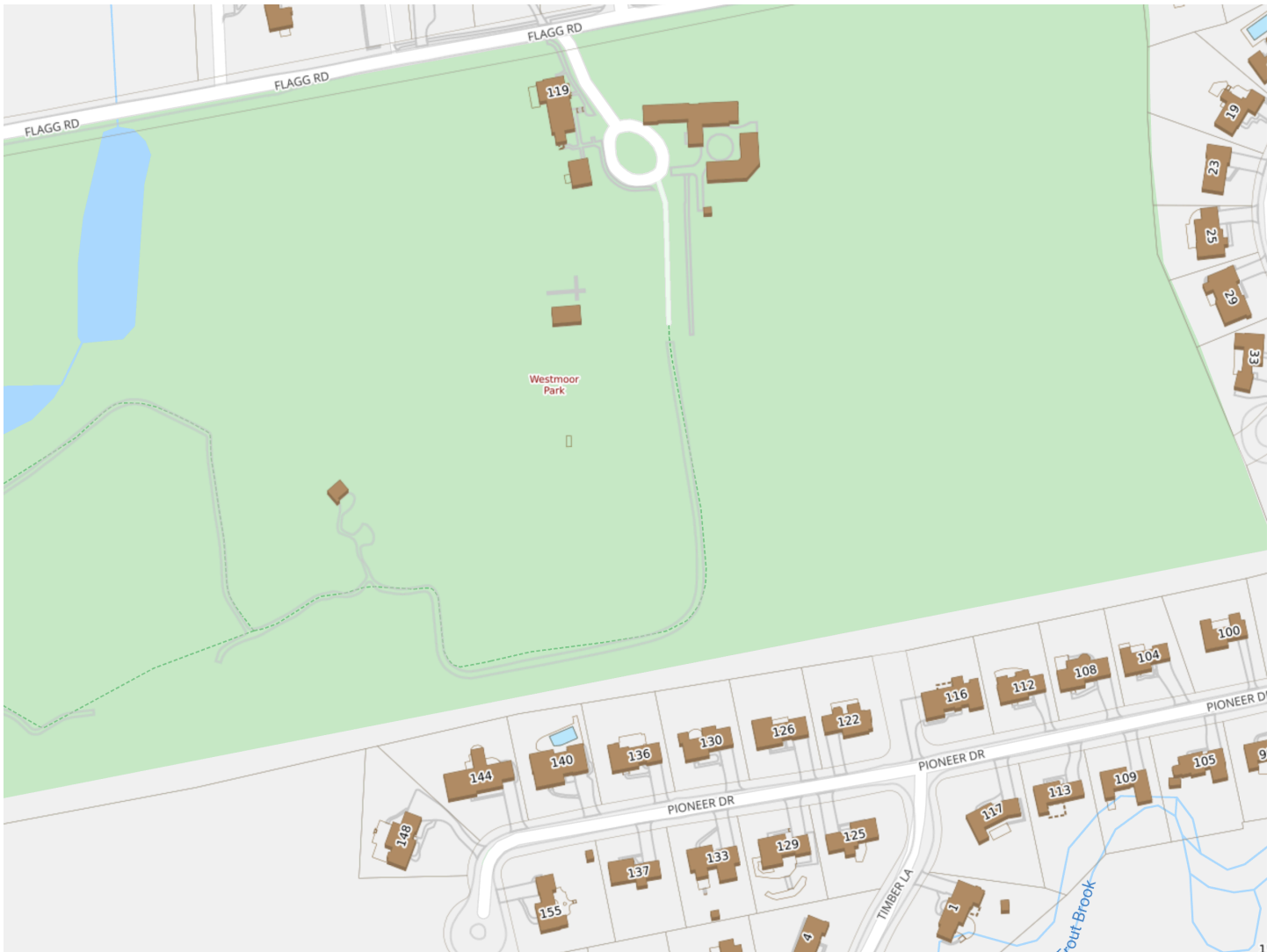
Features:

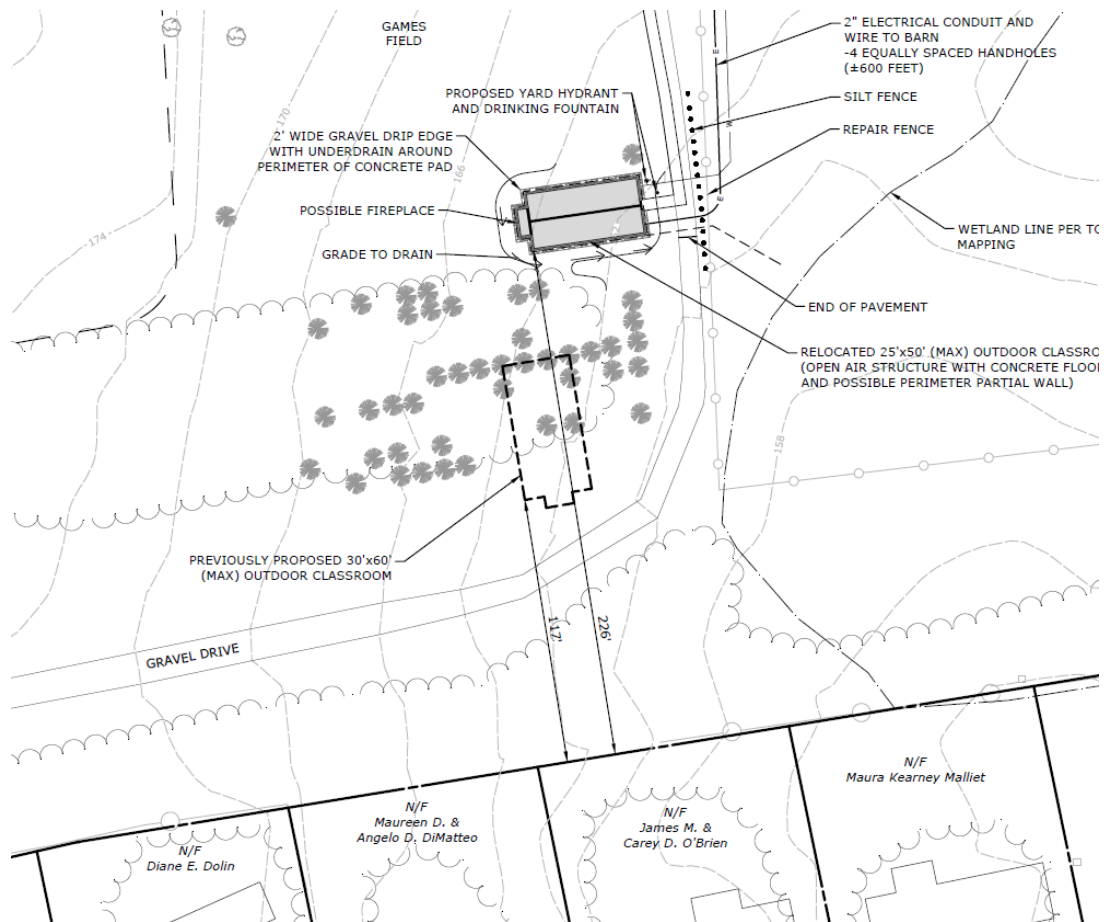
- Proposed to be located at the south end of the Games Field, tucked into the edge of the tree nursery.
- Accommodate 75 campers/students and their counselors/teachers.
- Size between 24 x 44 feet and 30 x 60 feet.
- Handicapped accessible and easily accessible for educational programming.
- Made of natural materials.
- No sound amplification.
- No external lighting.
- No rental activities.
- April to November usage, with occasional winter use for camps and programs.
- Dawn to dusk hours of operation, consistent with Westmoor Park rules.
- The proposed facility is intended to accommodate the current level of campers.

Benefits:

- Protect campers and students during inclement weather. Currently there is very limited indoor space for campers and students to gather safely.
- Improve and enhance Westmoor Park's Summer Camp and school-based EcoVenture program.
- The proposed shelter will not generate new, additional traffic.
- Park neighbors will not be impacted by new sound amplification, light generation or evening usage.

Outreach Area





Revised Site Plan

Proposed Outdoor Classroom

Westmoor Park

Oct. 29, 2019

Margaret & Michael Genovesi
108 Pioneer Drive

LANDLINE

(860) 523-7136

10/23 – spoke with Michael. Attended previous neighborhood meeting and stated that they are fine with the proposal.

Jennifer & Randy Kabakoff
112 Pioneer Drive

MOBILE

(860) 836-0959

MOBILE

(203) 605-6479

LANDLINE

(860) 232-5162

10/23 – left message on landline

Sharon & Kevin Cunningham
116 Pioneer Drive

MOBILE

(860) 997-2966

MOBILE

(860) 508-6844

LANDLINE

(860) 233-2767

10/23 – left message on landline

Judith Murray
122 Pioneer Drive

MOBILE

(860) 709-5000

MOBILE

(203) 232-7142

LANDLINE

(860) 232-7142

10/23 – left message on landline

Maura Kearney Malliet
126 Pioneer Drive

MOBILE

860-463-6678

LANDLINE

(860) 232-8818

10/23 – left message

10/25 – met with Maura at her home. We walked the property and looked at where the stakes were to be located. She had not immediate concerns.

10/28 – Maura texted me that after talking with neighbors she does have concerns about the proposed location. She asked why it had to go in that specific spot and if other locations were considered.

10/31 – Maura texted me after receiving the letter from the park and stated that she thinks the new location is appropriate. It “disturbs an area where many families gather and play with their children and people look down to the pasture. It is the best open walking space in the park. Why is the top of the hill near the current structures not considered?

10/31 – I texted Maura back and said that I would give her a call on Friday to address her concerns.

11/1 – left message for Maura

Carey & James O'Brien

130 Pioneer Drive

LANDLINE

(860) 570-9755

Mobile

860-208-6657

10/23 – machine not taking messages

10/25 – Maura Malliet introduced me to Carey. Carey gave me her cell number and suggested that I text her to set up a time to meet.

10/28 – I texted Carey asking when would be a convenient time to meet, review the plan, answer questions and address any concerns.

Maureen & Angelo DiMatteo

136 Pioneer Drive

(860) 523-4181

Maureen work – 860-277-1932

Maureen Cell – 860-593-8831

10/23 – left message

10/25 – Maureen returned my call and left a message expressing that she is very concerned about the outdoor classroom. I returned Maureen's call and asked if we could set up a time to meet. She indicated that her schedule was too busy to meet, but expressed the following concerns:

(1) the outdoor classroom was “right in my back yard” and that she would see it right outside her window. She stated that she was against the proposal in that location.

(2) She wanted to know why it was being located in that particular location.

(3) Maureen wanted to know what my involvement with the park was and why I was doing outreach. I informed her that I have been a supporter of Westmoor, attended the Feast on the Farm dinners and like to volunteer for various causes in town when I can.

I told her that I would share her concerns with Westmoor Park and see what could be done to mitigate her concerns. I offered again to meet with her and further discuss and she declined the offer.

Diane Dolin

140 Pioneer Drive

FIXEDVOIP

(860) 232-5956

10/23 – left message

Genta & Alison Banks Itoh
144 Pioneer Drive

MOBILE

(860) 830-3297

MOBILE

(617) 633-7419

LANDLINE

(617) 964-5291

10/23 – set up meeting for 10/25 at 2 PM. Genta expressed that they were concerned about people using the area for the wrong purposes – gathering/drinking. I informed him that the park is closed at dusk, that there is someone always on site, and if there is a problem, the town had committed to adding cameras to monitor the area.

10/25 – Met with Alison. Provided overview, reviewed project information and rendering and walked the proposed site. Her family enjoys the park and she had no immediate concerns.

David Azia
148 Pioneer Drive

MOBILE

(860) 882-9830

MOBILE

(860) 306-4901

MOBILE

(860) 833-5320

10/23 – sent David a PM.

10/31 – set up meeting for 11/1 at 9:45

11/1 – Met with David, provided project overview, answered questions and addressed concerns. He has no problem with the structure in either of the proposed locations.